

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 26, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon Buoy 10 Recreational fishery update only
--------------------------------	---

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 29, 2014.

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1-25 totals nearly 35,000 adults, compared to the preseason expectation of around 106,000 fish by this date. Chinook passage is typically 10% complete by August 25 and 50% complete by September 8.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam during July 1 and August 25 totals nearly 182,200 fish, compared to the preseason expectation of around 170,000 fish by this date. Passage is typically 50% complete for Group A stock by August 9 and by September 13 for Group B stock.
- TAC met on August 25 to review the upriver summer steelhead return to Bonneville Dam. TAC did not formally update the run size but noted that the run is tracking within expectations. TAC will continue to meet weekly to review salmonid stock status throughout the fall management period.

Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall fisheries was 86,400 adult Chinook, with 56,400 Chinook set aside for harvest through August 27; the balance (30,000 fish) was set aside for the remainder of the Early Fall season.
- Ten fishing periods have occurred in Zones 4-5 during August 3-25 and an additional period is scheduled for August 26-27. All periods are 9-hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Catch to date has been considerably less than expected.
- Chinook CWT data is nearly complete through Week 33. Stock composition is similar to expectations, with the majority of the catch being URBs.
- Based on actual and projected catch estimates, Chinook remain available for harvest during the Early Fall commercial fisheries.

2014 Non-Indian Commercial Early Fall Harvest Data				
	Date	Chinook	Coho	Del.
<i>Week 32</i>	August 3-4	81	0	15
	August 5-6	70	0	12
	August 7-8	70	0	8
<i>Week 33</i>	August 10-11	537	2	31
	August 12-13	522	6	39
	August 14-15	521	4	43
<i>Week 34</i>	August 17-18	3,093	50	101
	August 19-20	755	7	87
	August 21-22	873	6	65
<i>Wk 32-34</i>	sub-total	6,522	75	
<i>Week 35</i>	August 24-25 (prelim)	<4,500	50	90
	August 26-27 (proj.)	8,000	50	100
Grand Total		19,022	175	
		Allocated	86,400	
		Early Fall Balance	67,378	

<i>Recommendation: 2014 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i>		
Season:	9 PM Thursday August 28 to 6 AM Friday August 29	(9 hours)
	9 PM Monday September 1 to 6 AM Tuesday September 2	(9 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.	
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, and shad	
Additional Rules:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240	

- Catch could range from 7,000 to 12,000 Chinook for each period.
- Late August/early September is very volatile as Chinook abundance is rapidly increasing. This volatility makes estimating catch difficult. Based on the preseason run size and modeled stock composition, a catch of 24,000 Chinook is well within the commercial allocation of Chinook.
- Consistent with preseason planning, late fall commercial mainstem fisheries are expected to begin the week of September 14.

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1 with a daily bag limit of two fish/one Chinook. The fishery is scheduled to shift to mark-selective regulations for Chinook over the three-day holiday weekend (August 30–September 1). During September 2–30, the fishery is scheduled to close to Chinook retention while the daily bag limit for hatchery coho will increase from two fish to three fish. Chinook retention is scheduled to re-open October 1. A total of 45,700 Chinook and 56,500 coho (including release mortalities) were allocated to this fishery.
- Catch estimates through Sunday August 24 include 18,118 Chinook mortalities. Catch projections for August 25–September 1 total around 13,500 Chinook mortalities, plus an additional 1,000 Chinook mortalities have been reserved for September 2–December 31. This brings the season total catch projection to 32,600 Chinook (including release mortalities).
- Chinook coded-wire-tags (CWTs) collected during August 1-17 have been analyzed. The data from these tags (159) have been applied to the Chinook harvest (8,717) during the same time period. Additional CWT data won't be available and analyzed until the end of this week at the earliest.
- When combined with catch projections through the end of the season, the LRH composition is projected to be slightly higher than expected (14% v 12%). In order to account for this difference, the total Chinook available to Buoy 10 is adjusted to 39,330 fish to remain within allowable impacts.

- Based on the projected season total Chinook catch (32,600) and the inseason allocation, season total harvest projections represent 83% of the current Buoy 10 allocation.
- Coho catch rates have been improving since the middle of last week. Catch through August 24 is estimated at 15,000 fish (including release mortalities). Season total catch is expected to remain within preseason allocation.
- At this time it appears the Buoy 10 fishery can continue under regulations currently in place and remain within the ESA guidelines set forth for this fishery.
- There is some potential to modify the Buoy 10 fishery, although there is risk involved. Staff estimates that lifting the three-day Chinook mark-selective regulation for August 30-September 1 would result in an additional 3,500 Chinook mortalities. This would increase the Chinook catch to 90% of the current allocation.
 - The biggest risk would be if the LRH stock proportions remain higher than the modeled expectations which could affect the LCR sport fishery.

Future Meetings

- If additional mainstem commercial time were to be considered in early September, a hearing would need to be scheduled for Tuesday September 2 or Wednesday September 3.
- The Joint staff anticipates a Compact hearing will be needed late in the week of September 8. Staff has identified September 11 as a tentative Compact date to review salmonid stock status and treaty and non-Indian fisheries.